

SSB 5219 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Local Government & Housing

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A focus group is established to examine
4 the need to provide housing for individuals at risk of being homeless
5 including, but not limited to, those suffering from mental illness,
6 those with criminal backgrounds, and those who have chemical or alcohol
7 dependency issues. The focus group shall review and make
8 recommendations regarding:

9 (a) Identification and removal of barriers to finding and
10 maintaining affordable housing for individuals at risk of being
11 homeless;

12 (b) Existing programs that provide housing assistance to at-risk
13 populations and advisable methods of providing housing assistance in
14 the future;

15 (c) Methods to encourage private landlords to provide housing to
16 at-risk populations;

17 (d) Statutory changes to the residential landlord-tenant act; and

18 (e) Quality controls to ensure housing standards for at-risk
19 tenants.

20 (2) The focus group shall invite participation from:

21 (a) Legislative members from related committees in the senate and
22 the house of representatives;

23 (b) State agencies or entities that deal with at-risk populations,
24 including the department of corrections, the department of community,
25 trade, and economic development, the department of social and health
26 services, the department of veterans affairs, the office of civil legal
27 aid, and the interagency council on homelessness;

28 (c) Counties;

29 (d) Cities;

30 (e) Crime victims;

1 (f) Community corrections officers;
2 (g) Multifamily housing and landlord associations;
3 (h) Tenant associations or organizations advocating on behalf of
4 tenants and the homeless;
5 (i) Local law enforcement; and
6 (j) Other interested groups as appropriate.
7 (3) The focus group shall present a report of its findings and
8 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
9 legislature, including any proposed legislation, by November 15, 2009.
10 (4)(a) The focus group is authorized to use legislative facilities,
11 and staff support must be provided by senate committee services and the
12 house of representatives office of program research.
13 (b) Nonlegislative members of the focus group shall serve without
14 compensation.
15 (c) Legislative members of the focus group may not be reimbursed
16 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 for participation
17 in the focus group.
18 (5) This section expires December 1, 2009."
19 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds that the focus group must invite participation from
the office of civil legal aid.

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